


Connections

Newsletter

Happy New Year 2023



MOSSBANK SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

 @mossbankschool

Mossbank School is a rural K-12 school located in Mossbank on Treaty 4 Territory. Our Mission is to "Nurture Learning in a Caring Environment." We have a population of 122 students from 66 families from the town and surrounding rural areas. We have 15 educational staff, 1 HFO, and 4 bus drivers who all care deeply about our school and students. We have a beautiful, well maintained school that was built in the 1960's featuring a shop, Home Ec. lab, hardwood floor gym, roomy stage, well stocked library, and many technology items. Presently, we are undergoing a huge renovation of our bathrooms and changerooms!



Our Learning Improvement Plan Goals encompass Reading (Academic) and Growth Mindset (Student Wellness) - we are embracing the potential of "yet!" In-house, we offer all courses necessary for students to graduate and enter any program at trade school or university along with a host of online courses offered by Prairie South School Division Virtual School to supplement electives. We have a very active SCC/Home and School Association and SRC. We offer many, many extra-curricular opportunities such as the arts: Drama Group, Art Club, Christmas Talent show, and yearbook; Athletics: various talented sports teams with a long history of Provincial appearances and championships; K-12 House/Intramural program that allows all students and staff to participate in SRC events, gaining points for their Houses (Red, Blue, Green, Yellow) in many ways. Our students pride themselves in their Academic Excellence, Athletic Excellence, and Volunteer Excellence as students are nominated by staff for these awards at the end of the year for their hard work.





We have many traditions at our school including spirit days, wearing pink the first Tuesday of every month to encourage students to stand up against bullying (an initiative that was started when Mr. Boughen was principal at our school 15 years ago!), and we do a full school Conga at the end of every assembly. Mossbank School has close ties to the community as we host pre-school within our school, students are active in the community, and the community greatly supports the school through volunteerism, scholarships, and financial support (Farm it Forward). We are very fortunate to live where we live and enjoy the school, connections and relationships that we have! This is who we are.



Get to Know Our Staff

Faith Olmstead has worked at Caronport Elementary School as a librarian for 20 years – 4 of those years she also served as an Educational Assistant. She grew up on a farm near Kinistino, about a half-hour west of Melfort. Faith spent her early years of schooling in Kinistino before attending Caronport High School from Grades 10-12. After one year of college at Briercrest, she completed a B.Ed. at the University of Saskatchewan. Faith's husband Wesley is a professor in the college at Briercrest. Her son Bryndon and his wife Felicia live in Cyprus, where they are studying and teaching. Her daughter Brooke is in her second year of her PhD program at Duke University in North Carolina, studying New Testament. Although they are long-time residents of Caronport both of her children began school in Cambridge, England, where the family lived for three and a half years. Faith loves hiking, walking, biking – anything that allows her to enjoy time outside. While she's inside, you'll find her engrossed in a good murder mystery! Cyprus is a new favourite vacation spot – they plan to visit their son and his wife after the school year is complete! Faith has loved her 20 years at Caronport Elementary School. She has been blessed to work in a wonderful community with many amazing people. It has given her great pleasure to share the joy of reading with so many students.



Noah Anderson is currently the grade 7/8 teacher at Empire School – a role he has enjoyed for five years. Noah moved to Moose Jaw from Vancouver Island in 1982 and has lived here ever since. He attended Prince Arthur School his first year living in Moose Jaw then moved to the west side of town and attended St. Agnes and Vanier high school. It wasn't until he was 30 years old when he returned to school, registering as a "mature student" in the fall semester of 2002 at the University of Regina. He learned over the course of six years how to write papers and to study for exams. In 2008 he convocated with a Bachelor degree in Kinesiology and Health Studies. In the winter of 2009, he was asked by a former professor if he'd be interested in pursuing a master's degree in the social sciences. After five years of work, he graduated with a Master degree in Science. In 2015 he returned to university and enrolled as an after-degree student in Education and convocated in 2017. Noah was hired by the division in May of 1999 as a casual caretaker – he worked as a casual and full-time caretaker for the division for just over 20 years. His first teacher contract was at William



Grayson where he taught Grade 3s for six months before heading over to Empire where he's had the privilege of remaining. Noah and his beautiful wife Shauntel have two amazing daughters, Keira 9 years old and Elyse, 5 years old. They lead a very busy life with Shauntel working out of Regina and the family involved in many activities such as piano, gymnastics, taekwondo, kickboxing, swimming, horse-riding and cheer! Not to mention Noah's love for hockey where he tries to get on the ice four or five times a week! In the summer he plays in-line hockey as well. His all-time favourite hockey player is Wayne Gretzky, who wore the number 20 in a game, which happens to be Noah's number – and it turns out Wayne wore the number 20 on November 3, 1978 which happens to be Noah's birthday! His family's favourite vacation spot is in Tulum, Mexico, where Noah and his wife got married in 2012. They've enjoyed visiting the Dreams resort and made many wonderful friendships over the years and will create new experiences now as a family of four!

Jen Montague is currently the Student Support Services Coordinator for Prairie South. She moved around a lot growing up, living in Nipawin, Regina, Humboldt, and Moosomin. Jen was told that living in different communities was a perk of being the child of an RCMP member. It sure didn't feel like a perk when she moved from Humboldt to Moosomin during her senior year of high school! Jen's first teaching position was in La Crete, Alberta, a small Mennonite community close to the border with the Northwest Territories. She thought she'd be teaching 'just' outside of Edmonton. Not quite! She was so fortunate to have the experiences she did in La Crete, where she taught grade 7 and some student support. In 2002, Jen moved to Moose Jaw to teach at William Grayson School. For 8 years she was the Grade 7/8 teacher, taking on some student support responsibilities in her last two years. At William Grayson she met her husband Pat, who is now a teacher at Palliser Heights. Her last teaching role was in the Lifeskills Program at Riverview. The unique experiences she had while in this program taught her a lot about teamwork and supporting the needs of unique learners. Jen has spent the last few years in the Learning Department as an Advocacy and Behaviour Support Consultant. This is her first year as the Student Support Services Coordinator. Every role has influenced who she is as an educator and person. She is forever grateful for the experiences she has had and the people she has met along the way. Being married to a teacher, they are fortunate to have the same holidays. Their summers are filled with travel, enjoying the outdoors, and visiting with family (especially their cute nephews, Eli and Knox). In her spare time, Jen helps with Special Olympics Moose Jaw and serves on the executive. She also enjoys yoga, photography, going for walks and she hopes to soon be walking with a new puppy!

